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**TICKHILL<sup>3</sup>*ar***  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR 1913.**

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T. A. CALEY, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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# Tickhill Urban District Council.

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## **ANNUAL REPORT** **OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.** **FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1913.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE  
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1913.

Many of the facts recorded are a repetition of those stated in previous reports, but I trust that you will note the varying conditions that are gradually affecting your district making both the birth and death rates higher than in previous years. The rapid development of collieries in the immediate surroundings has not only caused an increase in the population, but has brought a class of people into the district who need more modern sanitary provisions than were necessary for a purely agricultural population.

It is most satisfactory to be able to report one distinct advance in the sanitation of the district, namely the scavenging of the District by the Council. This has been a great boon to the property owner and tenants, as well as relieving your officers of a great anxiety. There has been no hitch in the arrangements made for the periodical cleansing of the ashpits, etc., and as the tenants have come to understand what was required of them they have helped the contractor as much as possible.

Much yet remains to be done before the sanitation of your district is brought into line with other parts of the country, but the necessary improvements can only be done gradually, and much depends upon the provision of a laid-on water supply, which you have not yet had the opportunity to provide.

## **OCCUPATION.**

As I stated last year many of the working class population find work at the neighbouring collieries, but there are still many men, and a few women, employed on the land. Wages are on the whole good and there is very little distress in the district. Poor Law relief is confined to the very old, and is I believe, only small in amount.

General Hospital accommodation is usually sought at Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield. There is no doubt that a small Cottage Hospital would be a great boon in the district and greatly relieve the congestion complained of at the larger centres.

It is impossible at the present early stage to form an opinion as to the benefit gained by the people, as regards improved health, by the operation of the National Insurance Act. No doubt many cases are receiving treatment who sadly needed it and were unable to afford it previous to the Act coming into force.

## **Sanitary Circumstances of the District.**

### **WATER SUPPLY.**

The supply of water in the district remains the same as for many years past, namely from shallow wells. The water so obtained is very hard and unsuitable for many household purposes. The nature of the wells makes contamination most easy, although I am glad to say we have only been obliged to condemn one well during the last year.



Considering the rapid development of this part of the country it is becoming increasingly more necessary to provide a constant, that is a laid-on, supply of good water. A splendid opportunity of providing this urgent want was nearly within our reach during last year. I refer to the Leeds scheme, which offered a supply of excellent water on very favourable terms. Unfortunately the scheme has been abandoned for the time being.

### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

There has been a small extension of the drainage system during the year by the connecting up of some houses of Westgate.

The old sewer in Castlegate will need attention before long as it is becoming incapable of the work thrown upon it.

Upon the whole the drainage system has been satisfactory, and the sewage disposal works have given no cause for complaint.

### **CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

Four privies attached to old property have been reconstructed during the year, and two new ones have been built to similar houses.

Eight new privies have been built to new property.

No new water closets have been constructed.

### **SCAVENGING.**

A great advance has been made during the year by the Council undertaking the scavenging of the district. This has been done at a cost of £95, and I need hardly tell you what a boon it has been to your officers as well as to the tenants and landlords. The contents of the ashpits and closets are disposed

of by the contractor upon the land, and the larger rubbish is tipped into an old quarry that has been leased to the Council. The arrangements have worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

## **SANITARY INSPECTIONS.**

A total of 58 inspections have been made during the year. Informal notices for improvements of property, or the removal of a nuisance were served in 15 cases and complied with in 10.

The one lodging house in your district has been inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

## **SCHOOLS.**

I have on various occasions visited the two elementary schools and found them in a good sanitary condition. The health of the children has been on the whole good. Much benefit continues to be done by the periodical visits of the County Council Medical Staff.

## **MILK SUPPLY.**

The price of milk has been increased and brought into line with that charged in large towns. So far as I have been able to judge the supply has been sufficient and satisfactory in quality, but I must remind you that we have no satisfactory machinery to deal with the milk sold in the district. There are no bye-laws regulating the registration of cowsheds which is an oversight that should be remedied. Such bye-laws would greatly assist us in our work of inspection.

## **OTHER FOODS.**

There are five slaughter houses in the district and these have been inspected and found satisfactory.

No action has been found necessary under the Foods and Drugs' Acts.

## **HOUSING.**

During the year 35 cottage dwellings have been inspected as required by the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909. Thirty of these dwellings were found to be satisfactory. In the case of three improvements were necessary and were carried out upon our suggestion.

There are many yards very badly paved and there has been much delay in getting them put into good condition.

There is not the same active demand for houses as there was a year ago but not a single cottage house is untenanted, and the rents remain somewhat high.

Eight new houses, for the working classes, were built during the year.

After consideration it was decided that the time was not yet ripe for the adoption of a Town Planning scheme.

## **Sanitary Administration of the District.**

No addition to the sanitary staff has been made during the year, and although the work is constantly increasing the present staff is sufficient for the needs of the district.

The Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases has been restricted by the Hospital authorities finding it impossible to admit any cases of Diphtheria. It is now necessary that all these cases be kept at home, a state of things not at all satisfactory.

I am again greatly indebted to the County Medical Officer, Dr. Kaye, and his staff for the numerous bacteriological examinations and reports they have made for me.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There have been thirteen cases of notifiable infectious disease.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis...	...	...	...	...	...	2
						—
						13

All the cases of scarlet fever were sent to hospital.

There have been isolated cases of Whooping Cough, Measles, and Chicken Pox, but there has been nothing of the nature of an epidemic.

Of the two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis one occurred in the West Riding Asylum, to a Tickhill resident. This case died in the Asylum. The second case is now well on the way for complete recovery.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were eight deaths in infants under the age of one year. The death rate works out at the very high figure of 156·3 per 1,000 births. Last year the rate was 88·0 per 1,000 births.

Three of the deaths occurred in one street and although I suspected the milk supply I was unable to prove that it was the direct cause.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1



Malignant Disease ...	...	...	...	...	1
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Lung Disease	...	...	...	...	9
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	5
Violent Deaths ...	...	...	...	...	2
Various other causes	...	...	...	...	14
					—
Total				...	37

### RAINFALL.

1911.	1912.	1913.
21·71 inches.	33·45 inches.	22·87 inches.
Altitude above sea level ...	...	60·6 feet.
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Gross Estimated Rental	...	£12,088 8 6
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Rateable Value, 1—Agricultural Land	...	£3,902 1 0
2—Buildings	...	£6,240 13 6
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Total	...	£10,142 14 6
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District Rate for the Year was	...	3s. 0d.
The Poor Rate was	...	3s. 0d.

### Vital Statistics of the District.

AREA of the District	...	5,579 acres.
POPULATION. Census, 1911	...	1806
„ Estimated at the end of 1913	...	1900
INHABITED HOUSES	...	528
UNINHABITED HOUSES...	...	nil
Average number of persons per house	...	3·27
NEW HOUSES built during 1913	...	8

BIRTHS.	Registered, Males ...	...	29	
	Females	...	22	
	Total	...	51	
BIRTH-RATE	per 1000 living persons	...	26.16	
DEATHS.	Registered, Males ...	...	22	
	Females	...	15	
	Total	...	37	
DEATH-RATE	per 1000 living persons	...	20.44	
Average at death,	Males	...	29	
	Females	...	44	
Deaths over the age of 65 years	...	...	13	
Infantile death-rate	...	...	156.3	
NATURAL INCREASE in the population (excess of births over deaths)	...	...	18	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. A. CALEY, M.D., M.R.C.S., ENG.